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Department of State

TELEGRAM

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY #7

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 L-02 NEA-08 DODE-00 CIAE-00 H-01 RSC-01
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P 161310Z MAR 70

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 569

S E C R E T TEHRAN 975

LIMDIS

FOR PM RE PINCUS-PAUL TRIP

REF: CINCSTRIKE/USCINMEAFSA 132224Z MAR 70

1. QUESTION HAS ARISEN IN MESSAGE EXCHANGE BETWEEN CINCSTRIKE/CINCMEAFSA AND CHIEF ARMISH/MAAG AS TO RESPONSE TO BE GIVEN PINCUS-PAUL SHOULD THEY RAISE QUESTION U.S. MILITARY CONTINGENCY PLANNING. CHIEF ARMISH/MAAG HAS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED WE SHOULD REPLY: THERE ARE NOT RPT NO BILATERAL CONTINGENCY PLANS, AND, RE UNILATERAL CONTINGENCY PLANS, WE NOT AUTHORIZED DISCUSS THEM.

2. CINCSTRIKE, HOWEVER, INFORMS US THAT ACCORDING EXISTING STATE-DEFENSE GUIDANCE WE SHOULD AVOID ACKNOWLEDGING OR DENYING EXISTENCE OF ANY CONTINGENCY PLAN BILATERAL OR OTHERWISE AND IF QUESTIONED ON SUBJECT WE SHOULD STATE WE NOT AUTHORIZED DISCUSS CONTINGENCY PLANNING.

3. COMMENT: MY OWN STRONG FEELING BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE IN CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS IS THAT REPLY AS AUTHORIZED BY CINCSTRIKE (I.E. WE NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS) WOULD SIMPLY WHET PINCUS-PAUL APPETITE AND SUSPICIONS AND LEAD THEM TO BELIEVE WE HAD BILATERAL CONTINGENCY PLANS WITH IRAN. SINCE WE DO NOT RPT NOT HAVE ANY BILATERAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING HERE, IT PREFERABLE BE AS CANDID THIS SUBJECT AS POSSIBLE. THEREFORE I WOULD PROPOSE TO ANSWER PINCUS-PAUL AS FOLLOWS:
A. WE HAVE NO RPT NO BILATERAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING WITH

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IRAN;

B. IF ASKED WHETHER WE HAVE ANY UNILATERAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING WE WOULD REPLY THAT THIS IS A MATTER WHICH THEY SHOULD CHECK ON WHEN THEY RETURN TO WASHINGTON AS THERE IS ALWAYS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PLANNING GOING ON THERE.

4. HOPE THEREFORE DEPT MAY BE ABLE CLEAR WITH DOD AND AUTHORIZE US ADOPT POSITION STATED IMMEDIATELY ABOVE.

GP-3 MACARTHUR

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